

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain pending in the present application. The claims have not been amended in response to the Office Action.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002295925 A in view of "Design Choice". Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. JP 2002-295925A is an unexamined JP patent application publication that was published in Japan on October 9, 2002. The present application was filed on July 8, 2003 based upon JP patent application 2002-199996 filed on July 9, 2002. Accordingly, JP 2002-295925A may be available as a 35 U.S.C. §103(a) reference via only 35 U.S.C. §102(a).

However, regarding the availability of JP 2002-295925A using 102(a), the published date (October 9, 2002) is later than the Japanese priority date (July 9, 2002) of the present application. Enclosed is a verified English translation of priority application JP 2002-199996, which perfects the claim to priority to overcome the rejection using JP 2002-295925A under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) via 35 U.S.C. §102(a). Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As stated above, Claim 1 is believed to patentably

distinguish over the cited prior art and thus Claims 2-18, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are believed to patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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